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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Arnold
Schwarzenegger
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NOTICE OF CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Development of Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for a Waste Discharge Regulatory Program for Dairy Manure Digester and Dairy Manure Co-Digester Facilities within Central Valley Region (Region 5)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) will hold a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq) scoping meeting and public workshop to seek input on the scope and content of the environmental information that should be considered in the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a waste discharge regulatory program for dairy manure digester and dairy manure co-digester facilities within its jurisdictional boundaries (Central Valley, California).

The Central Valley Water Board is lead agency in preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental impacts that could result from the development of dairy manure digester and co-digestion facilities at dairies and centralized off-site locations within the Central Valley. Through the process of anaerobic digestion, digester facilities treat dairy wastes and other non-hazardous organic wastes to produce biogas, a renewable source of energy. Biogas generated at digester facilities can be used in internal combustion engines to produce electricity or refined to biomethane a product equivalent to natural gas.

The Central Valley Water Board will regulate the discharge of effluent and solid digestate generated from such facilities. Regulatory options under consideration for the program include Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) General Orders and/or Conditional Waivers of WDRs. The Program EIR will provide CEQA compliance for the water quality permitting by the Central Valley Water Board to the owners and operators of those facilities. These digester facilities will also require discretionary permits issued by other state, county and local agencies and special districts. Other permitting agencies and districts may rely on or tier off the Program EIR to satisfy CEQA requirements.

Supplemental information in the form of an Initial Study may be downloaded in PDF format from the Central Valley Water Board's website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/press_room/announcements/.

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND SCHEDULE

Three scoping meetings will be held to provide participants with an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the draft Program EIR to be prepared pursuant to CEQA in support of development of General Order(s) and/or Conditional Waiver(s) to regulate the discharge of wastes generated by the operation of dairy manure digester and dairy manure co-digester facilities.

Date:	March 24, 2010	March 30, 2010	April 7, 2010
Time:	5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
	Central Valley Water Board	Central Valley Water Board	Central Valley Water Board
Address:	11020 Sun Center Drive, #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	1685 E Street Fresno, CA 93706	11020 Sun Center Drive, #200 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Directions and location information to the Rancho Cordova and Fresno offices can be found on the Central Valley Water Board's website:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/about_us/contact_us/

The facilities will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Stephen Klein at (559) 445-5558 at least five working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

Submission of CEQA Scoping Comments

The Central Valley Water Board will accept both written and oral suggestions on the scope and content of the information to be included in the CEQA documents. Comments should be limited to identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, reasonably foreseeable means of compliance and their impacts, and potential significant environmental effects to be analyzed in-depth in the draft EIR. Written comments should be submitted to Jennifer Tencati of CirclePoint no later than **12:00 noon on 23 April 2010** (contact information below). Please indicate the project you are commenting upon in the subject line, "**Scoping Comment Letter – Central Valley Water Board Dairy Digester Program EIR.**"


WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Groups and individuals interested in the environmental impacts of dairy manure digester and co-digester projects as well as the development of the Central Valley Water Board's waste discharge regulatory program for these facilities are encouraged to attend these meetings. This includes, but is not limited to, public and private land owners; representatives of tribal nations; agricultural producers; dairy owners and operators; digester developers; and other federal, state and local regulators including air and water management officials.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this scoping meeting can be directed Jennifer Tencati at (916) 658-0180 x131. Please submit comments by mail to Jennifer Tencati, CirclePoint, 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 802, Sacramento, CA 95814, by email to j.tencati@circlepoint.com or by fax to (916) 658-0189. Electronic submission via e-mail is preferred. If you wish to receive ongoing information regarding the development of a dairy manure digester and dairy manure co-digester regulatory program, you may subscribe to the "Dairy Program" mailing list through our website at : http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/reg5_subscribe.shtml or call Jennifer Tencati and request to be added to the mailing list.

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.



Clay Rodgers, Assistant Executive Officer
18 March 2010